

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 23, 2005. Claims 1 to 11 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 5 and 9, are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,615,318 (Matsuura). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a coordinate input apparatus that detects three dimensional absolute position coordinates of an indicating tool. In operation, the apparatus detects a three-dimensional absolute coordinate value of the indicating tool in a three-dimensional space area and then determines which one of a plurality of three-dimensional space areas the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value belongs to. Once the apparatus determines that the three-dimensional absolute value belongs to one of the three-dimensional space areas, a position of the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value in the determined three-dimensional space is converted into a display coordinate value for a display. Accordingly, a user may perform a coordinate input operation at a place relatively far away from the display.

Turning now to the claims, amended Claim 1 is directed to a coordinate input apparatus which detects three-dimensional position coordinates of an indicating tool used in combination with a display for displaying a window based on two-dimensional coordinates. The input apparatus includes a storage means for storing a plurality of a set of coordinate values of a plurality of points for defining each of a plurality kinds of a three-dimensional space area which is positioned at a relative coordinate position against a

position of the display; a coordinate detection means for detecting a three-dimensional absolute coordinate value of the indicating tool in a three-dimensional space area; a determination means for determining which three-dimensional space area defined by each of the plurality of the set of coordinate values stored in said storage means the detected three-dimensional absolute coordinate value belongs to; and a conversion means for converting, responsive to a determination of said determination means that said three-dimensional absolute coordinate value belongs to said three-dimensional space area, a position of said three-dimensional absolute coordinate value in the three-dimensional space area into a display coordinate value of said display.

In contrast, Matsuura discloses displaying three-dimensional diagrams on a display based on a reference dummy and data of waist and chest lengths of sewing patterns. In the Office action, it is stated that the reference dummy corresponds to a three-dimensional space area stored in a storage means as in the present invention. However, the reference dummy of Matsuura is not positioned at a relative coordinate position against a position of the display as the three-dimensional space areas of the present invention are as shown in Figs. 6 and 7 of the present application.

Furthermore, the apparatus of Matsuura does not determine to which three-dimensional space area of a plurality kinds of predefined three-dimensional space areas a detected coordinate value belongs to as in the present invention. This means that an apparatus in accordance with the disclosures of Matsuura does not determine a three-dimensional space area belonging the detected coordinate value against the display.

Finally, Matsuura does not disclose or suggest converting, responsive to a determination that the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value belongs to the three-dimensional space area, a position of the three-dimensional absolute coordinate value in

the three-dimensional space area into a display coordinate value of a display, as featured in the present invention.

In light of the deficiencies of Matsuura as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 5 and 9 are directed to a method and a program code, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 5 and 9 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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